

The following is claimed:

1. A method of integrating databases for an educational institution, the method comprising:

establishing a first database comprising enrollment data in a first format;

5 establishing a second database comprising administrative data in a second format;

converting the enrollment data from the first format to the second format upon detection of a new enrollment of at least one student in a course; and

transferring converted enrollment data in the second format from the first database to the second database.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the detection of the new enrollment comprises:

verifying financial information on the enrollment of the at least one student.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the detection of the new enrollment comprises:

authorizing credit account data of the at least one student.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the transferring of converted enrollment data is transferred over a communications network from the first database to the second database.

20 5. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

converting administrative data from the second format to the first format upon an occurrence of a triggering update of the second database; and

transferring the converted administrative data in the first format from the second database to the first database.

5        6.      The method according to claim 5 wherein the transferring of converted administrative data is transferred over a communications network from the second database to the first database.

10        7.      The method according to claim 5 wherein the triggering update comprises the assignment of at least one of a student and an instructor to an electronic course.

15        8.      The method according to claim 5 wherein the triggering update comprises receiving at least one of updated student information and updated instructor information.

20        9.      The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

accessing the first database to determine if a student is qualified to enroll in a corresponding course.

20        10.     The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises accessing the second database to assign an instructor and a student to an electronic course.

11.     The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises delivering at least a portion of a content of the electronic course to an enrolled student.

12. An integrated database system for an educational institution, the system comprising:

a first database containing enrollment data in a first format;

a second database containing administrative data in a second format;

5 a first converter for converting the enrollment data from the first format to the second format upon detection of a new enrollment of at least one student in a course; and

a data transfer interface for transferring converted enrollment data in the second format from the first database to the second database.

13. The system according to claim 12 further comprising:

an enrollment manager for determining whether to enroll in the at least one student in an electronic course based on at least one of student data and financial data;

15 a coordinator for detecting the new enrollment after the enrollment manager determines compliance of at least one of the student data and financial data with a requirement of the educational institution.

14. The system according to claim 12 further comprising:

a financial module for determining whether received financial information of the student complies with a requirement of the educational institution;

20 a coordinator for detecting the new enrollment after the enrollment manager verifies the financial data of the at least one new student.

15. The system according to claim 12 further comprising:

a communications network arranged to transfer the converted enrollment data from the first database to the second database via the first converter.

16. The system according to claim 12 further comprising:

5 a second converter for converting administrative data from the second format to the first format upon an occurrence of a triggering update of the second database.

17. The system according to claim 16 wherein the data transfer interface is arranged to transfer the converted administrative data in the first format from the second database to the first database.

18. The system according to claim 16 further comprising:

10 a communications network arranged to transfer the converted administrative data from the second database to the first database via the second converter.

15 19. The system according to claim 16 wherein the triggering update comprises an assignment of at least one of a student and an instructor to an electronic course.

20 20. The system according to claim 16 wherein the triggering update comprises a receipt of at least one of updated student information and updated instructor information.

21. The system according to claim 12 wherein the system further comprises:

20 an enrollment module accessing the first database to determine if a student is qualified to enroll in a corresponding course.

22. The system according to claim 12 wherein the system further comprises:

a course assignment module for accessing the second database to assign an instructor and a student to an electronic course.

5                   23. The system according to claim 12 wherein the system further  
comprises:

a course delivery module for delivering at least a portion of a content of the electronic course to an enrolled student.

10